



# CLEAN WATER ACTION

CONNECTICUT

**Testimony of Roger Smith, Co-Director, Clean Water Action  
Before the Planning and Development Committee  
March 13, 2014**

**In Opposition to Senate Bill 404 AN ACT CONCERNING BUILDING  
PERMIT FEES FOR CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND  
RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS FOR TRASH-TO-ENERGY FACILITIES**

Clean Water Action is a non-profit organization which has worked in Connecticut on energy issues since 1997. We strongly oppose additional subsidies from electric ratepayers to polluting, and increasingly uneconomic trash incinerators.

Creating a floor price for Class II RECs wastes ratepayer money with no additional value.

As the state ramps up its nation-leading recycling, producer take back, composting and anaerobic digestion programs, the economics of trash incineration will likely worsen. The legislature should not use energy policy to pick winners on waste management and wrongly elevate incineration above source reduction and recycling.

The proposal in this bill would set a minimum price of 1 cent/kwh for all Class II trash incineration RECs, which all ratepayers in Connecticut would have to pay. If the intention is to set a floor price to keep CRRA solvent, there is no guarantee that this bailout will work as CRRA appears uncompetitive compared to its rivals, and towns continue to abandon it. This money would also go to other incineration companies who have not demonstrated any financial need for this REC value.

We urge the Planning and Development Committee not to use the state's energy policy to prop up a failed solid waste policy. There are holistic solutions to our waste issues underway at DEEP and with the governor that will move our state beyond our reliance on trash incineration.